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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted at Mercer County Community College (MCCC) to determine why some students who applied for admission to the college did not attend. A two-page questionnaire was sent to 698 students who applied for admission for the fall 1983 semester, but did not enroll in any credit courses that semester, and to an additional 381 students who applied and registered for the fall 1983 semester, but did not attend classes. Study findings, based on responses from 228 MCCC applicants, revealed: (1) the majority of the respondents were female (59%), Caucasian (62%), single (80%), and over 21 (50%); (2) the major factors influencing students' decision to apply to MCCC were distance from home (cited by 44% of the respondents), tuition costs (39%), availability of a particular program (35%), and advice from friends (28%); (3) the major factors influencing respondents' decision not to enroll were job and family responsibilities (24%), distance from home (14%), program availability (11%), and availability of financial aid (8%); (4) 50% of the students who registered for classes at MCCC, but never attended, elected to attend another college, citing as their reasons a visit to the MCCC campus, athletic programs, and closeness to home; and (5) the nursing and pre-funeral service education programs were the most frequently cited programs motivating students to apply to MCCC. Appendices include the survey instrument, respondents' comments, and detailed results. (HB)

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# TECHNICAL REPORT
## OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

84-07

# A STUDY OF APPLICANTS WHO DID NOT ATTEND FALL 1983

June 1984

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

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# I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarized data obtained from a survey conducted November, 1983 by the Office of Institutional Research on those students who either applied for enrollment for the Fall 1983 semester but never registered or registered for the fall semester but never attended.

The primary responses given by the prospective students as their reason for applying to Mercer was closeness to home and tuition costs, while their decision not to enroll was mostly influenced by job/family responsibilities and other factors. The Nursing and Pre-Funeral Service Education curriculums were the most frequently cited programs for motivating their decision to apply to Mercer. The largest percentage of in-county respondents cited the availability of the Nursing Program while the out-of-county prospective students chose the Pre-Funeral Service Education program as a reason for enrollment. The college catalog was the respondents main source of information about MCCC. Forty-three percent attended another school during the Fall 1983 semester with Trenton State College being the most popular choice. Sixty-four percent were employed at the time of the survey. The most popular occupation was a salesperson or clerk. Twenty-three percent were both attending school and employed and 37% were employed but not attending school. Fifty-three percent of the respondents planned to attend Mercer in the near future.

## II. INTRODUCTION

### A. Background

Every semester Mercer County Community College receives numerous requests for admission materials from interested students. Many applications are accepted, but some of these prospective students choose not to attend MCCC. Some even go so far as registering but never attend any classes. In an attempt to determine why these particular students did not follow through with their enrollment plans, a study was proposed to investigate the reasons why these students changed their minds about coming to Mercer.

The survey population for this study consisted of 698 students who applied for admission for the Fall 1983 semester, but did not enroll in any credit courses that semester and an additional 381 students who applied and registered for the Fall 1983 semester but never attended.

### B. Methodology

A two-page survey questionnaire was developed by the Office of Institutional Research. This instrument was then reviewed by appropriate offices on campus. (See Appendix A).

The questionnaire, along with a cover letter and self-addressed stamped envelope was mailed to a total survey population of 1,079. The initial bulk-rate mailing which was sent out at the end of November netted 184 questionnaires. A telephone follow-up was conducted in February reaching an additional 44 respondents for a total of 228 usable surveys.[1] Thus, over a three month period, a total response rate of 22% was attained. Table 1 shows the population size and return rates for the survey over two years.

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[1] Bad addresses (return to sender) were excluded from the survey populations.

Table 1

Population Size and Return Rates

| | 1982 Respondents | 1983 Respondents |
|---|---|---|
| Survey Population | 803 | 1,079 |
| Bad Addresses | 9 (1%) | 42 (4%) |
| | 794 (99%) | 1,037 (96%) |
| Total Usable Surveys | 129 (16%) | 184 (18%) |
| Telephone Follow-up | 35 ( 4%) | 44 ( 4%) |
| Total Survey Responses | 164 (20%) | 228 (22%) |

## III. RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

### A. Demographic Characteristics

Table 2 compares the biographic data of the survey population with the respondents over a two year period. The responding cohort reflected the total survey population on the characteristics of ethnicity and years since high school graduation; however, females had a higher response rate than the males. In 1983, the 228 questionnaire respondents were predominantly female (59%), Caucasian (62%), single (80%) and had graduated from high school in 1983 (40%). A larger percentage (37%) had graduated more than 4 years ago compared to 29% of the 1982 respondents. Half of the respondents were 21 and older, while 20% were 19 and 20 years old and 30% were 18 and younger. Sixty-five percent of the respondents were from Mercer County, 30% out-of-county (in-state), and only 5% out-of-state. The two most frequently applied for programs were General Studies and Pre-Allied Health. A listing of the curriculum the respondents had applied for at Mercer can be found in Appendix B. It should be noted that over half (57%) of the respondents' curriculums were unknown due to their indecision at the time of application.

Table 2

Biographic Data of the Survey Population and Respondents

| | 1982 | | 1983 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Original Survey Population N = 803 | Survey Respondents N = 164 | Original Survey Population N = 1079 | Survey Respondents N = 228 |
| Sex | | | | |
| Male | 48% | 40% | 46% | 41% |
| Female | 52% | 60% | 54% | 59% |
| Ethnicity | | | | |
| White | 62% | 65% | 62% | 62% |
| Black | 27% | 28% | 26% | 30% |
| Hispanic | 5% | 3% | 8% | 5% |
| Other[a] | 6% | 4% | 4% | 3% |
| Number of Years Since H.S. Graduation | | | | |
| None | 44% | 43% | 43% | 40% |
| 1 year | 10% | 12% | 9% | 11% |
| 2-4 years | 16% | 16% | 15% | 12% |
| More than 4 years | 30% | 29% | 33% | 37% |

[a]Includes Asian, American Indian and Non-resident aliens.

B. Item Analysis

Table 3 lists the most influential factors involved in the respondents decision to apply to Mercer. A comparison with last year's respondents show that although some of the percentages have decreased due to the addition of more choices, the four top-rated factors for both years of prospective students were distance from home, tuition cost, availability of a particular program and advice from friends. The most popular programs which influenced their decision to apply for admission to Mercer were Nursing, Pre-Funeral Service Education and Aviation Flight Technology (See Appendix C).

The largest percentage of in-county respondents cited the availability of the Nursing program as a reason for enrollment, while the out-of-county prospective students chose Pre-Funeral Service Education, LPN-RN Upward Mobility and Aviation Flight Technology as the most popular programs.

Table 3

Influential Factors in Decision to Apply to Mercer

| Factor | 1982 Respondents | 1983 Respondents |
|---|---|---|
| Distance from home | 38% | 44% |
| Tuition cost | 38% | 39% |
| Availability of a particular program (See Appendix C) | 78%[a] | 35% |
| Advice from friends | 31% | 28% |
| Advice from teacher/counselor | 21% | 22% |
| Visit to MCCC | 25% | 20% |
| Other factors (See Appendix D) | 8% | 17% |
| Advice from parents | 21% | 15% |
| Academic reputation | 29% | 14% |
| Availability of Financial Aid | 15% | 13% |
| Job/Family responsibilities | b | 12% |
| Transportation availability | 17% | 9% |
| Admission standards | b | 9% |
| General appearance of campus | 25% | 7% |
| Advice from employer/supervisor | b | 6% |
| Size of campus | 18% | 3% |
| Social life | 10% | 3% |
| MCCC Admissions Office | 13% | 2% |
| Athletic program | 8% | 1% |

[a] In 1982, transfer and career program availability were added together.

[b] Choice not offered on 1982 survey.

The factors influencing the respondents decision not to enroll at Mercer have changed compared to last year's responses. Job/family responsibilities and other factors (listed in Appendix E) were uppermost on the 1983 cohort's list, while the 1982 group was concerned mainly with tuition costs and other factors (See Table 4).

Table 4

Influential Factors in Decision NOT to Enroll at Mercer

| Factor | 1982 Respondents | 1983 Respondents |
|---|---|---|
| Other factors (See Appendix E) | 24% | 25% |
| Job/Family responsibilities | a | 24% |
| Distance from hone | 18% | 14% |
| Availability of a particular program (See Appendix D) | 20% | 11% |
| Availability of financial aid | 13% | 8% |
| Transportation availability | 14% | 7% |
| Advice from parents | 7% | 6% |
| Advice from teacher/counselor | 8% | 6% |
| Tuition costs | 24% | 6% |
| Social life | 8% | 3% |
| Advice from friends | 5% | 2% |
| MCCC Admissions Office | 6% | 1% |
| Academic reputation | 6% | 1% |
| Athletic program | 6% | 1% |
| Visit to MCCC | 4% | 1% |
| Size of campus | 4% | 1% |
| Advice from employer/supervisor | a | 1% |
| Admission standards | a | 1% |
| General appearance of campus | 2% | 1% |

[a]Choice not offered on 1982 survey.

Of those who registered but never attended, the largest proportion stated that a visit to MCCC had the greatest influence on their decision to enroll and that the social life, distance from home and transportation availability were the three main factors on which they based their decision not to enroll. Fifty percent of this group elected to attend a college other than Mercer. The major reasons given for their enrollment at another college was a visit to the campus, athletic programs, and closeness to home. It appears that of the group who applied, but never registered admission standards and general appearance of campus were factors in their decision to enroll, while tuition cost and availability of a particular program were the reasons given for their decision not to enroll. Thirty percent of this group attended another college. The main reasons given were availability of a particular program and advice from employer or supervisor.

The college catalog was the main source of information listed by the prospective Mercer students. Also high on the list was mail to home and high school counselor (See table 5).

Table 5

Sources of Information on MCCC

| Source | 1982 Respondents | 1983 Respondents |
|---|---|---|
| College catalog | 56% | 45% |
| Mail to home | 37% | 22% |
| High school counselor | 36% | 22% |
| MCCC student | 31% | 16% |
| MCCC faculty/staff | a | 16% |
| Other (See Appendix F) | 13% | 11% |
| Newspaper article/ad | 13% | 6% |
| High school teacher | 9% | 4% |
| Radio announcement | 2% | 1% |
| Television broadcast | 2% | 1% |

[a]Choice not offered on 1982 survey.

Another area covered on the survey involves the amount of information the prospects had about Mercer at the time they were choosing a college. Eighty-nine percent of the respondents that answered the question had requested some information from Mercer and 90% of those answering said they received the requested information. Sixty-three percent had talked to a Mercer representative in person and 74% had visited the campus before making their choice.

Forty-three percent of the respondents attended another school or college during the Fall 1983 semester. The two most popular choices were Trenton State College and Burlington County College (See Appendix G). The main reasons for enrollment at that school were distance from home,availability of a particular program and academic reputation (See Table 6).

Table 6

Reasons for Enrollment at Other School/College

| Reasons | 1982 Respondents | 1983 Respondents |
|---|---|---|
| Distance from home | 29% | 23% |
| Availability of a particular program (See Appendix H) | 21% | 18% |
| Academic reputation | 25% | 16% |
| Advice of a teacher/counselor | 15% | 15% |
| Tuition costs | 21% | 13% |
| Advice of friend(s) | 13% | 13% |
| Advice of parent(s) | 15% | 12% |
| Availability of financial aid | 7% | 11% |
| Transportation availability | a | 10% |
| Visit to campus | 17% | 10% |
| On-campus housing | 10% | 9% |
| Admission standards | a | 9% |
| Job/family responsibilities | a | 7% |
| General appearance of campus | 12% | 7% |
| Size of campus | 12% | 7% |
| Social life | 10% | 7% |
| Other | 7% | 5% |
| Athletic program | 4% | 3% |
| Adivce from employer/supervisor | a | 2% |
| Enrollment in a 4-year college | 17% | b |
| Admissions personnel | 7% | b |

[a]Choice not offered on 1982 survey.

[b]Choice not offered on 1983 survey.

The employment data obtained for the 1983 respondents show that at the time of the survey, 38% were employed full-time and 26% part-time. These percentages represent a lower frequency of employment compared to the 1982 cohort when 47% were full-time and 28% were part-time workers. In 1983, nearly one-quarter (23%) combined both further education and full or part time employment (30% of the 1982 respondents), while 16% of the respondents were doing neither (8% of the 1982 respondents). Table 7, on following page, compares the employment and further education activities of the two years of respondents. The occupation most often listed by the respondents was a salesperson/clerk followed by the Nursing profession (See Appendix J).

Table 7

Employment/School Activities of the Respondents

| Activity | 1982 Respondents | 1983 Respondents |
|---|---|---|
| Attending school and employed | 30% | 23% |
| Attending school but not employed | 16% | 19% |
| Employed but not attending school | 38% | 37% |
| Not employed and not attending school | 8% | 16% |
| Unknown | 8% | 5% |
| TOTAL | 100% | 100% |

C. Conclusions

From the results of this study it can be clearly stated that Mercer's location and low tuition costs are the key factors which have influenced many students to apply to the college. The reasons influencing their decision not to enroll are not as easy to categorize. It is evident from the comments made that financial problems were a major worry of the respondents as was the case last year. Transfer difficulties and the unavailability of certain programs also had an affect on the prospective students. Future efforts should be directed towards resolving some of the comments listed under the category Problems Within Mercer in Appendix E. In addition, attempts should be made to investigate the courses for which students registered, but never attended.

It is encouraging that of those who attended another school during the Fall 1983 semester, 51% opted to go to a four-year institution and 27% to a local community college. Over half of all the respondents expressed a desire to attend Mercer in the future.

APPENDICES A THRU K

**MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
**APPLIED/NOT REGISTERED STUDENT SURVEY**
**FALL 1983**

APPENDIX A

Total Number of Survey Respondents = 228
Note. The numbers in parentheses represent the actual number of respondents.

1. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS OR PERSONS INFLUENCED YOUR DECISION TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION TO MERCER? (PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)

FACTORS:

(22) ADMISSIONS STANDARDS
(32) ACADEMIC REPUTATION
(89) TUITION COSTS
( 7) SIZE OF CAMPUS
(46) VISIT TO MCCC
( 3) ATHLETIC PROGRAM
( 7) SOCIAL LIFE
( 4) MCCC ADMISSIONS OFFICE
(80) AVAILABILITY OF A PARTICULAR PROGRAM
PLEASE SPECIFY (SEE APPENDIX C)
(29) AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL AID
(101) DISTANCE FROM HOME
PLEASE SPECIFY CLOSE (94) FAR (2)
(21) TRANSPORTATION AVAILABILITY
(16) GENERAL APPEARANCE OF CAMPUS
(29) JOB/FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES

PERSONS:

(64) ADVICE FROM FRIEND(S)
(33) ADVICE FROM PARENT(S)
(39) OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY) (SEE APPENDIX D)
(52) ADVICE FROM TEACHER/COUNSELOR
(13) ADVICE FROM EMPLOYER/SUPERVISOR

2. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS OR PERSONS INFLUENCED YOUR DECISION NOT TO ENROLL AT MERCER? (PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY).

FACTORS:

( 2) ADMISSIONS STANDARDS
( 1) ACADEMIC REPUTATION
(14) TUITION COSTS
( 1) SIZE OF CAMPUS
( 1) VISIT TO MCCC
( 3) ATHLETIC PROGRAM
( 6) SOCIAL LIFE
( 2) MCCC ADMISSION OFFICE
(24) AVAILABILITY OF A PARTICULAR PROGRAM
PLEASE SPECIFY (SEE APPENDIX E)
(18) AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL AID
(32) DISTANCE FROM HOME
PLEASE SPECIFY CLOSE (18) FAR (14)
(15) TRANSPORTATION AVAILABILITY
( 0) GENERAL APPEARANCE OF CAMPUS
(55) JOB/FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES

PERSONS:

( 4) ADVICE FROM FRIENDS
(13) ADVICE FROM PARENTS
(58) OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY) (SEE APPENDIX E)
(13) ADVICE FROM TEACHER/COUNSELOR
( 2) ADVICE FROM EMPLOYER/SUPERVISOR

3. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING SOURCES PROVIDED YOU WITH INFORMATION ON MCCC? (PLEASE CHECK AS MANY AS APPLY).

(103) COLLEGE CATALOG
( 49) HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR
( 8) HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER
( 36) MCCC STUDENT
( 36) MCCC FACULTY/STAFF
( 82) MAIL
(14) NEWSPAPER ARTICLE/ADVERTISEMENT
( 3) RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT
( 2) TELEVISION BROADCAST
(26) OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY) (SEE APPENDIX F)

4. DURING THE TIME THAT YOU WERE MAKING YOUR CHOICE OF COLLEGE DID YOU:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| REQUEST INFORMATION FROM MCCC? | YES (186) | NO (23) |
| RECEIVE INFORMATION REQUESTED FROM MCCC? | YES (186) | NO (20) |
| TALK TO A MCCC REPRESENTATIVE IN PERSON? | YES (129) | NO (76) |
| VISIT THE MCCC CAMPUS? | YES (151) | NO (54) |

5. IF YOU ARE ATTENDING ANOTHER SCHOOL OR COLLEGE THIS SEMESTER (FALL 1983), PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

A. NAME OF SCHOOL/COLLEGE (SEE APPENDIX G)
B. MAJOR PROGRAM OF STUDY (SEE APPENDIX G)
C. THE REASONS THAT LED ME TO ENROLL AT THIS SCHOOL/COLLEGE WERE: (PLEASE CHECK AS MANY AS APPLY).

(20) ADMISSIONS STANDARDS
(37) ACADEMIC REPUTATION
(29) TUITION COSTS
(23) VISIT TO CAMPUS
( 6) ATHLETIC PROGRAMS
(16) SOCIAL LIFE
(29) ADVICE FROM FRIEND(S)
(28) ADVICE FROM PARENT(S)
(34) ADVICE FROM TEACHER/COUNSELOR
( 5) ADVICE FROM EMPLOYER/SUPERVISOR
(12) OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)
(SEE APPENDIX I)

(41) AVAILABILITY OF A PARTICULAR PROGRAM (PLEASE SPECIFY) (SEE APPENDIX H)
(23) AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL AID
(55) DISTANCE FROM HOME (PLEASE SPECIFY) CLOSE (52) FAR (3)
(21) TRANSPORTATION AVAILABILITY
(15) SIZE OF CAMPUS
(15) GENERAL APPEARANCE OF CAMPUS
(15) JOB/FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES
(20) ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

6. DO YOU PLAN TO ATTEND MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE FUTURE?

(116) YES (37) NO (67) UNCERTAIN

7. WERE YOU EMPLOYED DURING THE FALL 1983 SEMESTER?

(83) YES, FULL-TIME (78) NO
(55) PART-TIME

8. WHAT IS/WAS YOUR OCCUPATION?

(SEE APPENDIX J)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION IN COMPLETING THIS SURVEY.

APPENDIX B

Curriculum Applied for at MCCC

| | Number of Respondents |
|---|---|
| Accounting | 1 |
| Advertising Design | 1 |
| Architecture | 1 |
| Automotive Technology | 1 |
| Aviation Flight Technology | 1 |
| Business Administration | 5 |
| Computer Operations | 3 |
| Computer Science | 4 |
| Cooperative Nursing MMC | 1 |
| Data Processing | 5 |
| Data Processing Certificate | 2 |
| Dental Assisting | 1 |
| Draft and Design | 1 |
| Education Assistant | 1 |
| Electrical Engineering Technology | 1 |
| Electronics | 1 |
| Engineering Science | 1 |
| Fire Science Technology | 1 |
| General Business | 1 |
| General Studies | 14 |
| Humanities & Social Science | 4 |
| Humanities & Social Science - Bilingual | 2 |
| Law Enforcement | 1 |
| Mathematics | 1 |
| Music | 1 |
| Nursing | 3 |
| Pre-Allied Health | 13 |
| Pre-Business | 8 |
| Pre-Funeral Service Education | 2 |
| Pre-Liberal Arts | 3 |
| Pre-Technical | 8 |
| Pre-Technical Bilingual | 1 |
| Radio-TV | 2 |
| Secretarial Science | 1 |
| Telecommunications | 1 |
| Telecommunications Technology | 1 |
| Unknown | 129 |
| TOTAL | 228 |

APPENDIX C

Influence on Decision to Apply
for Admission to Mercer (Question #1)

Availability of a Particular Program

- Nursing (mentioned by 13)
- Pre-Funeral Service Education (mentioned by 11)
- Aviation Flight Technology (mentioned by 7)
- Data Processing (mentioned by 6)
- Computer Science (mentioned by 4)
- Funeral Service Education (mentioned by 4)
- Secretarial Science (mentioned by 4)
- Fine Arts (mentioned by 3)
- LPN-RN Upward Mobility (mentioned by 3)
- Telecommunications (mentioned by 3)
- Business Administration (mentioned by 2)
- Computer Operations (mentioned by 2)
- Data Processing Certificate (mentioned by 2)
- Fire Science Technology (mentioned by 2)
- Humanities and Social Science (mentioned by 2)
- Legal Assistant (mentioned by 2)
- Radio/TV (mentioned by 2)
- Architectural and Building Construction Technology
- Automotive Technology
- Computer Operations Certificate
- Heating, Refrigeration and A/C
- Heating, Refrigeration and A/C Certificate
- Law Enforcement
- Medical Lab Technology
- Music

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Note. Programs are ranked according to frequency of response.

APPENDIX D

Other Factors or Persons that Influenced your
Decision to Apply for Admission to Mercer (Question #1)

- The most important influence was/is myself; I really want to further my education, and seriously want to further my career for the future.
- myself (mentioned by 3)
- daughter and son
- brother's influence (mentioned by 3)
- funeral director
- husband (mentioned by 3)
- my own decision (mentioned by 3)
- the librarian at the Trenton Library
- brother's friend
- grandmother lives in area
- fiancee'
- advice from relatives currently enrolled in MCCC
- myself - a life-time goal made since childhood
- my own interest
- advice from relatives (mentioned by 2)
- People from MCCC came and talked to me when I was in school.
- Campus was close to my place of employment at the time I started my evening classes at Mercer.
- I just walked in downtown office and saw Nursing program on board and asked to see someone.
- I was going to move to Trenton in July 83.
- A chance to make a career and to gain a broader outlook on life.
- I worked for Talent Search under Work Study Program.
- I would like to receive an associates degree in Nursing.
- high quality at a low cost
- lack of money
- I need to work, so finance is a problem.
- Mercer was one of the three colleges I picked to enroll on my SAT's.
- career change (mentioned by 2)
- closest school for Funeral Service Program

APPENDIX E

Summary of Reasons why not Enrolled at Mercer (Question #2)

Number that Attended Other Colleges

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Local Community Colleges | 26 | (See Appendix G) |
| Four-Year Colleges | 49 | |

Unavailability of a Particular Program at Mercer/Availability of a Program Elsewhere

- Basic courses
- Court Reporting
- Education of Hearing Impaired
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering
- Fashion Merchandising
- 4-year Nursing Program at Trenton State College
- 4-year program at Rider
- General Motors Automotive course at Camden County College
- Intensive Industrial Arts
- LPN Mercer Vocational School
- Nursing (mentioned by 2)
- Physical Education and Health
- Secretarial Program at Middlesex
- Work study in Criminal Justice at Northeastern

Financial Problems

- At the time I first applied, I just couldn't get the money together so now I am working two jobs. Hopefully, I'll have enough to attend very soon. I also applied for financial aid.
- Could not obtain unemployment form for '82 which I am still trying to get.
- I decided to stay where I am for another year, but would like to apply for Sept. 84 (fall semester) in Accounting or Computer Science, if possible. I would also like to get financial aid.
- My husband was on strike at N.J. Bell.
- I thought I might have been eligible for financial aid.
- financial problems
- unemployed and a ward of the state
- had financial aid difficulties and I do plan to attend MCCC in Fall '84.
- financially and timely bound right now
- I had financial problems, I plan to attend Spring '84.
- I need the money.
- My mother became ill - so I had to help out financially.
- no tuition money

Problems Within Mercer

- A lack of space in Funeral Service Education Program.
- Not enough room in class (Electronics & Math course).
- Waiting for word from Data Processing Department concerning receiving credit from job experience.
- Nursing program closed
- time course is given is not convenient
- transcript arrived too late
- I wasn't able to register because the computers were down (August).
- Two Dimensional Design class was changed to a time I could not meet, so I withdrew.
- Entrance test notice came on day of test.
- Failure of MCCC to provide timely response as to which college credits (from other colleges) would be credited toward MCCC degree requests.
- I need to take basic courses first and they were overcrowded so I must wait until next semester.
- School chose not to enter me as a student at that time.
- Computer program was boring.
- I was disappointed with the way MCCC handled things. They couldn't find my records.
- No information which resulted in my missing class until later discovered. Computer printout sheet failed to have the date of the beginning of class so I went by what the flyer from MCCC said. I missed the class and found out about it only by a withdrawal letter from the instructor. I am very disappointed in MCCC.

Four Year College

- I chose a different college I liked better (the University of Texas at Austin).
- enrollment at another school (Norwich University)
- decided to attend a 4 year college with an Aviation Program
- I wanted to go to NJIT.
- acceptance to school with housing
- acceptance at Glassboro State College
- decided to attend a four year college
- I wanted to live away from home.
- I decided to go to TSC for Liberal Arts.
- Purchase of car and commuting costs made a live-on college more attractive, plus time factor in commuting (loss of 2 hours per day).
- acceptance at another college
- accepted at Monmouth College

Transfer Problems

- Need to complete other courses for entry.
- My credits from Burlington County College were not accepted.
- I met with counselor - I did not have enough credits to apply in the LPG-RN Upward Mobility program and counselor discouraged me to apply.
- A transfer into Nursing would result in starting over in Nursing as a freshman at MCCC
- Flight subjects could not be transferred.

Will Attend in Future

- needed additional credit to enter Funeral Service Program
- I plan to attend in the future.
- personal problems, but I've enrolled for Spring '84.
- I was too late for Fall semester, so I decided to enroll in Spring.
- I will attend MCCC in the Spring semester.
- Since I have to do remedial work before entering Mercer, I am doing it at my local county college.
- Need to complete another course before entry.
- I will be attending.

Undecided

- I'm not sure if I should enroll in a program at the college or find a job at this time. This seems to be the whole problem; not knowing what would be best for me at this time.
- did not feel led by the Holy Spirit
- bad time for me to start MCCC

Miscellaneous

- Was unable to find adequate child care for my son. He's too young for the MCCC nursery.
- in training with Tampa, Florida Fire Department
- I did not enroll as my parents would not fill out forms.
- I have a good job, but I'll lose it if I want to further my education.
- Mercer Medical Center School of Nursing didn't accept me.
- moved out of state
- changed majors
- papers not completed in time
- did not marry my fiancee' who was stationed at Fort Dix
- I feel I will receive sufficient training on the job to render further course work superfluous.
- I am a foreigner in this country and I was refused a student's VISA.
- health problems
- After SAT's I talked to MCCC representative and was advised to go to Burlington County College.
- I was in a car accident.
- unable to find a funeral home to work at

APPENDIX F

Other Sources of Information on MCCC (Question #3)

- teacher at adult learning center
- flight instructor
- your bulletin board in office and a counselor
- open house
- friend (mentioned by 6)
- Bilingual counselor at J.K.C. (mentioned by 2)
- GED teacher
- family (mentioned by 5)
- It's five minutes from home.
- pamphlets on MCCC
- library
- my employer
- a personal awareness
- visit to campus
- my own intuition
- people that came to H.S. from MCCC (mentioned by 2)
- library at Bergen Community College
- I inquired by phone.
- funeral director

APPENDIX G

School/College Attended in Fall 1983 (Question #5a and b)
and Major Program of Study

| New Jersey Colleges | No. Attending | Major Program of Study |
|---|---|---|
| Atlantic Community College | 1 | -- |
| Bergen Community College | 1 | Business Law & Accounting courses |
| Brookdale Community College | 2 | Criminal Justice, Engineering Science |
| Burlington County College | 9 | Nursing**, Pre-Nursing**, Algebra, Business Mgt., Communications, Non-credit Basic Math |
| Camden County College | 1 | Automotive courses/Computer Science |
| Cumberland County College | 1 | Nursing |
| Essex County College | 1 | Basic courses |
| Glassboro State College | 2 | Special Education, Elementary Ed. |
| Jersey City State College | 1 | Business |
| Middlesex County College | 5 | Liberal Arts**, Computer Science, Secretarial Science, Math & English Basic Skills |
| Monmouth College | 2 | B.S. in Electronics Engineering, Communications |
| Montclair State College | 2 | Business Administration, Health Ed. |
| New Jersey Institute of Tech (NJIT) | 1 | Architecture |
| Passaic County Community College | 1 | Anatomy & Physiology & Chemistry |
| Rider College | 5 | Liberal Arts (Science & History), Computer Science***, Pre-Legal |
| Rutgers University | 3 | Computers in Education, B.S. in Nursing, Mechanical Engineering |
| Somerset County College | 3 | Liberal Arts, Nursing, R.N., General Studies |
| Stockton State College | 2 | Chemistry** |
| Trenton State College | 13 | B.S. in Nursing***, Physical Ed. & Health, Art, Advertising Design, Intensive Industrial Arts, Special Education, Criminal Justice, Liberal Arts |
| Union County Technical Institute | 1 | Civil Engineering Tech |
| William Paterson College of N.J. | 1 | Communications |
| Other Schools in New Jersey | 10 | LPN***, Computer Programming, Commercial Arts & Graphics, Court Reporting, Travel Career, Nursing, Beauty School |

**mentioned by two
***mentioned by three

| Out-of-State Colleges | No. Attending | Major Program of Study |
|---|---|---|
| Art Institute of Phila., PA | 1 | Commercial Art |
| Borough of Manhattan Comm. College (CUNY), NY | 1 | Data Processing |
| Bucks County Comm. College, PA | 2 | Liberal Arts/General Emphasis, Liberal Arts/Nursing |
| Cabrini College, PA | 1 | Communications |
| Community College of Phila.,PA | 2 | Biology, General Studies |
| Dutchess Community College, NY | 1 | Accounting |
| East Stroudsberg State College, PA | 2 | Medical Technology** |
| Edinboro State College, PA | 1 | Business Admin./Accounting |
| Embry Riddle Aeronautical Univ., FL | 1 | Aviation Management |
| Fulton Montgomery Comm. College, NY | 1 | Air Science |
| Florida Institute of Technology, FL | 1 | Flight Technology |
| George Washington University, DC | 1 | Electrical Engineering/ Computer Science |
| Highline Community College, WA | 1 | Pre-Nursing |
| Hillsborough Community College, FL | 1 | Fire Science |
| Montgomery County Comm. College, PA | 1 | General Studies |
| Mt. Aloysius Junior College, PA | 1 | Nursing |
| Nathaniel Hawthorne College, NH | 2 | Flight Aeronautical, Aviation Science |
| Northeastern University, MA | 1 | Criminal Justice |
| Norwich University, VT | 1 | Criminal Justice |
| Salem College, WV | 1 | Aviation Science |
| The University of Texas at Austin, TX | 1 | Business/Engineering |
| University of the Phillipines, Manila | 1 | Computer Science |
| Wagner College, NY | 1 | Computer Applications |
| West Virginia Wesleyen College, WV | 1 | Business |

Summary

| | |
|---|---|
| In-state community college subtotal | 26 |
| Out- of state community college subtotal | 11 |
| Community College subtotal | 37 |
| In-state four year college subtotal | 32 |
| Out-of-state four year college subtotal | 17 |
| Four year college subtotal | 49 |
| Other schools | 10 |
| TOTAL | 96 |

**mentioned by two
***mentioned by three

APPENDIX H

Reason that Led me to Enroll in Another School (Question #5)

Availability of a Particular Program

- Aviation Management
- Aviation Science
- Basic Courses
- BS degree in Electronic Engineering
- Business/Engineering
- Civil Engineering Technology
- Commercial Art
- Communications (mentioned by 2)
- Computer Science
- Computers in Education
- Court Reporting
- Criminal Justice
- Education of Hearing Impaired
- Engineering
- Flight Technology (mentioned by 2)
- 4-year Flight Aeronautical Program
- Health Education
- Liberal Arts
- Medical Technology (4 year program) (mentioned by 2)
- Minor in Paralegal Studies
- Nursing (4 year program) (mentioned by 2)
- Nursing (LPN Program) (mentioned by 2)
- Nursing (RN) (mentioned by 3)
- Part-time Paralegal studies
- Physical Education & Health

APPENDIX I

Other Reasons for Enrollment in Another School/College (Question #5)

- continuing in second year of Mt. Aloysius Nursing Program
- I have been taking courses at Burlington County College since 1975.
- my decision
- MCCC counselor
- work study program
- needed to do remedial work before I entered Mercer's funeral service program so I am doing remedial work closer to home
- H.S. football coach
- I was still enrolled and did not want to stop going to college while waiting to enter the mortuary science field.
- Brookdale is closer than MCCC.
- living near the college
- almost ready to receive associated degree from BCCC
- to complete the prerequisite items which I did not have incorporated into my bachelor's degree from Montclair State College in 75
- was awarded a scholarship from GECAC for accounting
- needed certain courses prior to taking funeral service course and Passaic Co. is only 5 minutes from my home vs. 1 hr & 20 min. to Mercer
- in service training with Tampa Fire Department

APPENDIX J

Occupation of Respondents (Question #8)

| Occupation | Number of Respondents | Status[a] |
|---|---|---|
| Accountant/Bookeeper | 6 | 3FT, 2PT |
| Air Force | 2 | 2FT |
| Automotive Mechanic | 2 | 2FT |
| Beautician | 1 | 1PT |
| Business-Admin./Manager | 7 | 5FT, 1PT |
| Business-Clerical/Records | 4 | 3FT, 1PT |
| Business-Marketing | 1 | 1FT |
| Cashier | 11 | 1FT, 8PT |
| Computer Operator/Technician | 5 | 3FT, 1PT |
| Computer Programmer | 2 | 2FT |
| Cook | 5 | 3FT |
| Custodian | 2 | 1FT, 1PT |
| Data Processor | 3 | 2FT |
| Dental Hygienist | 1 | 1PT |
| Draftsperson | 1 | 1FT |
| Driver | 3 | 1FT, 1PT |
| Electrical/Electronics Engineer | 3 | 1FT |
| Firefighter | 2 | 2FT |
| Funeral Director | 4 | 1FT, 3PT |
| Gas Station Attendant | 2 | 2PT |
| Homemaker | 3 | 3FT |
| Horticulturalist | 1 | 1FT |
| Human Service Technician | 1 | 1FT |
| Labour | 1 | 1FT |
| Law Enforcement/Security | 4 | 3FT, 1PT |
| Nurse/Aide | 15 | 10FT, 5PT |
| Occupational Therapist | 1 | 1FT |
| Police Officer | 3 | 3FT |
| Porter | 1 | 1PT |
| Salesperson/Clerk | 19 | 9FT, 10PT |
| Secretary | 13 | 11FT, 2PT |
| Skilled Tradesperson | 9 | 6FT, 2PT |
| Teacher | 6 | 3FT, 2PT |
| Waitress/Waiter | 5 | 2FT, 2PT |
| TOTAL | 149 | |

[a] FT = Full-time; PT = Part-time

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